

## WHAT IS AN MRI SCAN?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a method of looking inside the body. Instead of x-rays, the MRI scanner uses magnetism and radio waves to produce remarkably clear pictures of your head, spine, or other parts of your body. An MRI scanner consists of a strong magnet with a radio transmitter and receiver. These instruments gather the information out of your body. MRI produces soft-tissue images and is used to distinguish normal, healthy soft tissue from pathologic tissue.

Depending on what information your doctor needs, the MRI scan may require use of a contrast-agent given intravenously to assist in visualization of certain structures in your body.

- \$ MRI - image
- \$ MRA - arteries
- \$ MRV - veins

## PREPARING FOR AN MRI

No special preparation is needed prior to the exam, unless your doctor has given you other instructions. You will be asked to complete a safety screening form and answer questions pertaining to your medical history.

Please wear loose clothing without zippers or metallic parts.

Remove all:

- \$ jewelry
- \$ watches
- \$ hairpins
- \$ glasses
- \$ wallets
- \$ and other metallic objects

## IMPORTANT: PRECAUTIONS

MR is a non-invasive and safe test. As MR works with a strong magnet and radio waves, you need to tell us, if anything of the following applies to you or the person that accompanies you into the exam room:

- \$ aneurysm (clips)
- \$ cardiac pacemaker
- \$ implanted cardioverter defibrillator
- \$ electronic implant or device
- \$ magnetically-activated implant or device
- \$ neuro-stimulation system
- \$ spinal cord simulator
- \$ cochlear implant or implanted hearing aid
- \$ insulin or infusion pump
- \$ implanted drug infusion device
- \$ any type of prosthesis or implant
- \$ artificial or prosthetic limb
- \$ any metallic fragment or foreign body
- \$ any external or internal metallic object
- \$ hearing aid

*(Remove before entering the MR system room)*

Any metallic substance on your person can affect the quality of the diagnostic images

## HOW LONG WILL THE TEST TAKE?

The actual testing time is dependent upon whether the test is ordered with or without contrast. An MRI without contrast takes 20 minutes. An MRI with contrast take an additional 10 minutes.